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## **DCR SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS RECONSTRUCTION OF MAGAZINE BEACH PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has scheduled a public meeting on Tuesday, February 24, to discuss plans to replace the Magazine Beach Pedestrian Bridge, which crosses Memorial Drive at Magazine Beach.

Replacing the bridge will be the final step in a number of site improvements at Magazine Beach that DCR has undertaken in partnership with the City of Cambridge. Improvements include reconstructing one Little League baseball field, one full-size soccer field, and one half-size soccer field, as well as repairing, improving, and painting the pool and bathhouse. The work also includes creating a drainage system and rebuilding a parking lot next to the MWRA's Cottage Farm combined sewage outfall facility.

"The Magazine Beach area is a popular urban park and deserves these important upgrades," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "We are delighted to be working on all these improvements. Replacing the bridge has been a high priority for this agency for some time and now, thanks to Governor Patrick's Accelerated Bridge Program, we are able to do it."

The Magazine Beach Pedestrian Bridge was badly damaged about 18 months ago when it was accidentally hit by a large construction crane. Since then, DCR has made repairs to keep the bridge open until a full replacement can be built.

"This is one of the first bridge projects in the state to be done as part of the Accelerated Bridge Program," said State Representative Marty Walz, whose district includes the Cambridgeport neighborhood. "I am pleased that Cambridge residents and all who enjoy Magazine Beach and the entire river basin will benefit from the program so quickly."

**The Tuesday, February 24, public meeting on the Magazine Beach Pedestrian Bridge will be 6:30-8 p.m. in the Morse School, 40 Granite St., Cambridge.**

Magazine Beach is owned by DCR and managed under a Joint Management and License Agreement between DCR and the City of Cambridge. Under the November 1999 agreement, the city contributed \$1.5 million for design and construction of the site improvements, and

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Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
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took on responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the site in exchange for priority use of the playing fields by Cambridge youth sports.

Upholding his pledge to quickly repair the Commonwealth's most neglected bridges, Governor Patrick last August signed a bridge bond bill that committed \$3 billion to repair and replace 250 Massachusetts bridges identified as structurally deficient. Over the next several years, the program will ensure public safety by funding repair work for bridges in most urgent need of repair, and will create thousands of engineering and construction jobs. The project will save the state an estimated \$1.5 billion in avoided inflation and deferred-maintenance costs.

To learn more about the Accelerated Bridge Program, visit [www.mass.gov/acceleratedbridges](http://www.mass.gov/acceleratedbridges).

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*